

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus which is connected with an information communication apparatus, comprising:

5 first input means for entering information on an addressee of fee billing from said information communication apparatus;

second input means for entering an image;

10 addition means for adding said information on the addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; and

output means for outputting said added image.

2. An image processing apparatus according to  
15 claim 1, further comprising second output means for outputting information based on the output of said outputted image to said information communication apparatus.

20 3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information on the addressee of fee billing includes information for specifying a company issuing a credit card, and information for specifying a user of said credit card.

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4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information on the addressee of

fee billing includes information for specifying a bank issuing a debit card, and information for specifying a user of said debit card.

5           5. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said first input means further enters  
information for enabling activation of said image  
processing apparatus from said information  
communication apparatus, and said second input means  
10 starts the entry of said image after the entry of  
information for enabling activation of said image  
processing apparatus.

15           6. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said information based on the output  
of image includes at least one of the information on  
the sheet size, color mode and black-and-white mode.

20           7. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, further comprising discrimination means for  
discriminating whether said image is a specified image,  
and control means for controlling the addition by said  
addition means based on the result of discrimination by  
said discrimination means.

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8. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said addition means adds information

specific to the apparatus.

9. An information communication apparatus which  
is connected with an image processing apparatus and  
capable of communicating with an external server,  
comprising:

first input means for entering information on an  
addressee of fee billing and a password;

first output means for outputting said information  
on the addressee of fee billing and said password to  
said external server;

second output means for outputting, to said image  
processing apparatus, said information on the address  
of fee billing according to a result of identification  
on said information on the addressee of fee billing and  
on said password in said external server;

second input means for entering information based  
on the output of image from said image processing  
apparatus; and

third output means for outputting information  
based on the output of said image to said external  
server.

10. An information processing apparatus according  
to claim 9, wherein said information on the addressee  
of fee billing includes information for specifying a  
company issuing a credit card, and information for

specifying a user of said credit card.

11. An information processing apparatus according  
to claim 9, wherein said information on the addressee  
5 of fee billing includes information for specifying a  
bank issuing a debit card, and information for  
specifying a user of said debit card.

12. An information processing apparatus according  
10 to claim 9, wherein said second output means further  
outputs information for enabling activation of said  
image processing apparatus.

13. An image processing system composed of an  
15 information communication apparatus capable of  
communicating with an external server and an image  
processing apparatus, wherein:

said image processing apparatus includes:

first input means for entering information on an  
20 addressee of fee billing from said information  
communication apparatus;

second input means for entering an image;

addition means for adding said information on the  
addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner not  
25 easily recognizable to human eyes; and

first output means for outputting said added  
image; and

said information communication apparatus includes:

third input means for entering information on the addressee of fee billing and a password;

5 third output means for outputting said information on the addressee of fee billing and said password to said external server;

fourth output means for outputting, to said image processing apparatus, said information on the addressee of fee billing according to the result of  
10 identification on said information on the addressee of fee billing and on said password in said external server;

fourth input means for entering information based on the output of image from said image processing  
15 apparatus; and

fifth output means for outputting information based on the output of said image to said external server.

20 14. An image processing method in an image processing apparatus connected with an information communication apparatus, the method comprising:

a first input step of entering information on the addressee of fee billing from said information  
25 communication apparatus;

a second input step of entering an image;

an addition step of adding said information on the

addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner not easily recognizable to human eyes; and

an output step of outputting said added image.

5           15. An information communication method in an information communication apparatus connected with an image processing apparatus and capable of communicating with an external server, the method comprising:

10           a first input step of entering information on an addressee of fee billing and a password;

          a first output step of outputting said information on the addressee of fee billing and said password to said external server;

15           a second output step of outputting, to said image processing apparatus, said information on the addressee of fee billing according to the result of identification on said information on the addressee of fee billing and on said password in said external server;

20           a second input step of entering information based on the output of image from said image processing apparatus; and

25           a third output step of outputting information based on the output of said image to said external server.

16. A computer readable storage medium storing

program codes in an image processing apparatus  
connected with an information communication apparatus,  
the medium comprising:

5 a first input code for entering information on the  
addressee of fee billing from said information  
communication apparatus;

a second input code for entering an image;  
an addition code for adding said information on  
the addressee of fee billing to said image in a manner  
10 not easily recognizable to human eyes; and  
an output code for outputting said added image.

17. A computer readable storage medium storing  
program codes in an information communication apparatus  
15 connected with an image processing apparatus and  
capable of communicating with an external server, the  
medium comprising:

a first input code for entering information on an  
addressee of fee billing and a password;

20 a first output code for outputting said  
information on the addressee of fee billing and said  
password to said external server;

a second output code for outputting, to said image  
processing apparatus, said information on the addressee  
25 of fee billing according to the result of  
identification on said information on the addressee of  
fee billing and on said password in said external

server;

a second input code for entering information based on the output of image from said image processing apparatus; and

5 a third output code for outputting information based on the output of said image to said external server.

18. An image processing apparatus in which a  
10 server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing by confirming fee payment charged for a predetermined image processing, comprising:

15 a card reader for reading a card medium in which recorded is personal identification information for identifying a person requesting the image processing;

conversion means for converting said personal identification information, read by said card reader,  
20 into personal identification image data;

image generation means for generating output image data to be outputted, from said personal identification image data converted by said conversion means and said user requested image data requested by the user for  
25 image processing; and

control means for limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification



information read by said card reader and image output limited person information on the person for whom image output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

5           19. An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said request for image processing is a request for copying.

10           20. An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of reading different card media.

15           21. An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card medium is an automobile driving license.

20           22. An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said card medium is a prepaid card issued under a condition of inscription of predetermined personal information.

25           23. An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said conversion means converts said personal identification information read by said card reader into invisible or scarcely visible personal identification image data.

24. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 18, wherein said image generation means generates  
output image data to be outputted, by superposing said  
personal identification image data converted by said  
5 conversion means with said user requested image data  
requested for image processing.

25. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of  
10 reading a character on the card medium.

26. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of  
reading a numeral on the card medium.  
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27. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of  
reading a pattern on the card medium.

20 28. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 18, wherein said card reader is capable of  
reading a registration number recorded on a magnetic  
card medium through a magnetic head.

25 29. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 18, further comprising first informing means  
adapted, in case said control means compares said

personal identification information read by said card reader with said memorized image output limited person information and identifies lack of coincidence therebetween, to inform the server apparatus through a predetermined communication medium, of improper person information indicating an improper person for the image request.

30. An image processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising second informing means adapted, in case said control means compares said personal identification information read by said card reader with said memorized image output limited person information and identifies lack of coincidence therebetween, to inform the manager terminal apparatus through a predetermined communication medium, of improper person alarm information indicating an improper person for the image request.

31. A managing method for an image processing apparatus which is connected to a card reader for reading a card medium recording personal identification information for identifying a person requesting image processing, in which a server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing by confirming fee payment

charged for a predetermined image processing, the method comprising:

    a conversion step of converting said personal identification information, read by said card reader,  
5   into personal identification image data;

    an image generation step of generating output image data to be outputted, from said personal identification image data converted by said conversion step and said user requested image data requested by  
10   the user for image processing; and

    a control step of limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification information read by said card reader and image output limited person information on the person for whom image  
15   output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

32. A computer readable storage medium for an image processing apparatus which is connected to a card reader for reading a card medium recording personal  
20   identification information for identifying a person requesting image processing, in which a server apparatus and a manager terminal apparatus are capable of communication through a predetermined communication medium and which controls execution of image processing  
25   by confirming fee payment charged for a predetermined image processing, the medium comprising:

    a code for converting said personal identification

information, read by said card reader, into personal identification image data;

a code for generating output image data to be outputted, from said converted personal identification image data and user requested image data requested by the user for image processing; and

a code for limiting the request for image processing by comparing said personal identification information read by said card reader and image output limited person information on the person for whom image output is limited, acquired from said server apparatus.

33. An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for entering an image;

input means for entering predetermined information to be embedded in said image;

inquiry means for inquiring to the exterior whether said predetermined information is effective; and

embedding means for embedding said predetermined information into said image in case said inquiry means identifies that said predetermined information is effective.

34. An image processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said exterior is a server computer.

35. An image processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said inquiry means inquires through a communication channel whether said predetermined information is effective.

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36. An image processing method comprising:  
an input step of entering an image;  
an input step of entering predetermined information to be embedded in said image;

10 an inquiry step of inquiring to the exterior whether said predetermined information is effective;  
and

an embedding step of embedding said predetermined information into said image in case said inquiry step  
15 identifies that said predetermined information is effective.

37. A computer readable storage medium comprising:

20 an input code for entering an image;  
a code for entering predetermined information to be embedded in said image;  
a code for inquiring to the exterior whether said predetermined information is effective; and  
25 a code for embedding said predetermined information into said image in case said inquiry identifies that said predetermined information is effective.